The Census 2001 figures reveal that the child sex ration for the age group of 0-6 years is comparatively lower in Punjab (798), Haryana (819), Chandigarh (845), Delhi (868), Gujarat (883), Himachal Pradesh (896) and Rajasthan (909) as compared to the national average of 927 girls per thousand boys.

Though there is no established casual relationship between adverse sex ratio and spurt in cases of sex related crimes, this could be one of the factors resulting in some forms of violence against women.

Issue of substitute medicines by CGHS dispensary

2080. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether medicines prescribed by the Specialists and Government Hospitals with remarks on the prescription - no substitute to the beneficiaries are being issued alternative medicines by the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) Dispensaries, particularly Aram Bagh, Chitra Gupta Road, Sector - 12, R.K. Puram dispensaries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this is permitted under rules;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the action taken against the doctors of the dispensaries who have issued substitute medicines to the beneficiaries?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (e) As a matter of policy, on prescription specialists, the CGHS dispensaries are required to supply to beneficiaries, as far as possible, medicines of same formulation and therapeutic valve available with them and is not treated as "substitute". If such medicines are not available then only these are indented for procurement from Authorised Local Chemist or through the Medical Store Depot.

Shortage of anti-rabies vaccine

2081. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a shortage of anti-rabies vaccine;

(b) whether it is also a fact that production of anti-rabies vaccine by PSUs was suspended by the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI);

(c) whether after the stoppage of production by the PSUs, the private pharmaceutical